



**TRIAL**  
International

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

**Short  
version**



## LAW AS OUR LAST COMPASS

Young girls raped in DRC. Chemical weapons used in Syria. Countless disappearances in Mexico, complete impunity in Nepal and unimpeded tortures in Burundi.

2016 has brought its lot of horrors and when time comes to take stock, the temptation to give up is strong. But in a world that has lost its bearings, we can only reassert the importance of justice – not as a moral posture, but as a real force of change.

Take conflict-related sexual violence. Long-since considered as war collateral damage, they are increasingly prosecuted for what they are: intolerable crimes.

In 2016, the lines have shifted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in DRC and elsewhere. TRIAL International has fought tirelessly for perpetrators to be condemned, reparations to be awarded, laws to be amended. But the credit for these successes goes mainly to victims, whose unwavering tenacity has moved the fight against impunity forward.

Their courage and thirst for justice should be our compass. And this compass always points in the same direction: straight ahead!

Philip Grant, Director



Read our full annual report online  
[trialinternational.org/2016](http://trialinternational.org/2016)

# INVESTIGATIONS & CRIMINAL LAW

## Fostering greater accountability

In 2016, TRIAL International has stepped up its investigative efforts. Its legal advisors spent months interrogating victims, witnesses and partners, and collecting evidence.

Reasserting its expertise on blood minerals, TRIAL International filed a new complaint for pillage in the Great lake region, triggering the opening of an investigation in Switzerland. The organization also continued working on high-profile criminal cases in the Middle East.

TRIAL International is one of the only organizations combining investigative skills and judicial expertise in universal jurisdiction cases. Reiterating the success of 2015, it published Make way for Justice #2, a report analyzing the latest developments of universal jurisdiction worldwide.



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## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Lobbying for fairer procedures

Twenty-one years after the conflict ended, victims still struggle to access justice and reparation. In 2016, TRIAL International successfully introduced an amendment for free legal assistance in compensation claims. It also founded an expert working group seeking better identity protection throughout all proceedings.

TRIAL International adopts a multifaceted approach to victims' support, combining strategic litigation, free legal assistance, advocacy and capacity building for legal professionals. It was the first to obtain compensation in criminal proceedings.

# NEPAL

## Calling for effective rights

In 2016, political hindrance and legal loopholes have hampered Nepal's transitional mechanisms, leaving thousands of victims disappointed. TRIAL International has intensified its domestic and international action, urging for stronger legal and political safeguards.

Partnering with several NGOs, TRIAL International campaigned to highlight the need for justice in Nepal and called for a full implementation of United Nations Human Rights Committee decisions.



# BURUNDI

## Litigating despite the crisis

For the second consecutive year, the Burundian government clung to power, brutally repressing all dissidence, including human rights defenders, NGOs and lawyers. Adjusting to the context, TRIAL International has increased the security of its staff, collaborators and beneficiaries, but maintained a large array of activities.

TRIAL International has been litigating cases, encompassing the whole breadth of human rights violations in Burundi, both at the national and international level. It is the only actor to keep working on domestic cases since the crisis started.

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## Bolstering all levels of the judiciary

2016 has been the theater of a serious political crisis in the DRC. Despite increasing tensions, TRIAL International has consolidated its capacity-building program, coaching local lawyers to litigate mass crimes cases. An emphasis was placed on the documentation of crimes, in particular sexual violence.

As part of the Task Force on International Justice in Eastern DRC, TRIAL International ensured victims could meaningfully participate in trials for mass violence. The NGO is also the only organization to have submitted cases from Eastern DRC to international mechanisms in 2016. It pioneered too in litigating international crimes before domestic civil jurisdictions.



© Phil Moore

**TRIAL International's support  
gave me the courage to litigate  
mass violations cases.**

A lawyer trained in DRC

# 2016 AT A GLANCE



**407**  
victims helped



**36**  
pending cases



**162**  
lawyers,  
journalists and  
human rights  
defenders trained



**2'024'010** CHF  
income



**11**  
new staff  
members



**162'408**  
visits on  
our website



Join the fight against impunity!  
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# FINANCES

## Key figures

Subject to validation by TRIAL International's General Assembly.

## Expenditures

**2'022'800 CHF**

+11% since 2015

## Income

**2'024'010 CHF**

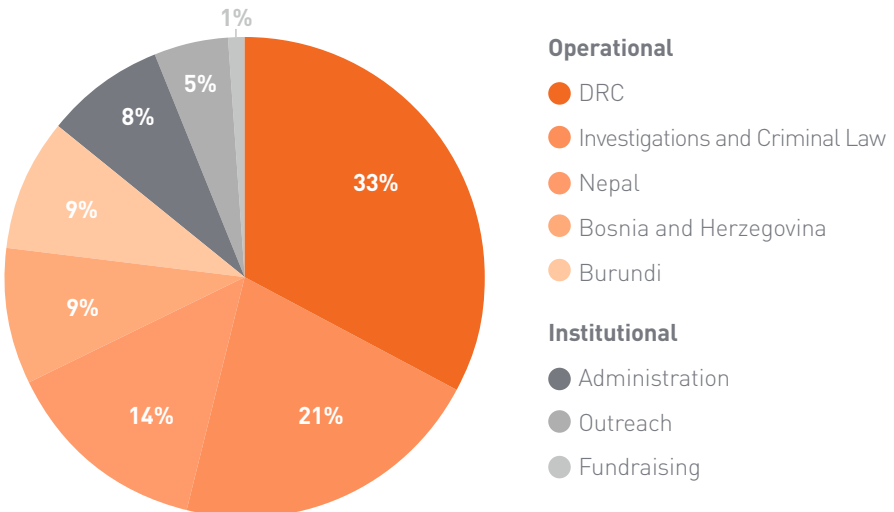
+16% since 2015

## Financial reserves

**23'081 CHF**

## Expenditures breakdown

In 2016, 86% of TRIAL International's financial resources have been allocated to its legal actions.



# DONORS' SUPPORT



250

members and private donors



25

institutional partners



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Agape Foundation  
Amnesty International, Swiss section  
Antenna Technologies Foundation  
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City of Vevey  
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support  
to Human Rights Defenders  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
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**Thank you for your trust  
and commitment!**